II. CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1-14.   (Cancelled)

15.   (Currently Amended) A computer based system for conducting online purchase transactions between a merchant and a customer of said merchant, said merchant and said customer being independent subscribers of a financial service, comprising:

an Internet access server for providing communication links to multiple computers via the Internet;

a financial server of said financial service connected to said Internet access server for receiving, storing and processing in a secure manner customer account information, including personal financial information for said customer, merchant account information for said merchant, and purchase transaction information, said financial service assigning independent subscriber identifiers to said merchant and said customer;

a merchant host computer at said merchant connected to said financial server through said Internet access server via a first independent communication link, said merchant host computer having processing means to generate purchase transaction information for transmittal to said financial server;

a customer computer terminal available to said customer and connected to said financial server and said merchant host

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~~computer~~ through said Internet access server via a second communication link independent of said first communication link, said customer computer terminal also being connected through said Internet access server to said merchant host computer, said customer computer terminal having processing means to generate said purchase transaction information including said customer subscriber identifier without personal financial information at said merchant host computer;

wherein said merchant host computer processes a purchase transaction by transmitting said purchase transaction information as generated by the customer via ~~a~~ said first communication link through said Internet access server between said merchant host computer and said financial server;

wherein said financial server processes said purchase transaction information in correlation with said customer account information, and said merchant account information; and

further wherein said customer computer terminal completes said purchase transaction by transmitting, independent of said merchant, an acceptance of said purchase transaction information via ~~a~~ said second communication link. ~~through said Internet access server between said customer computer terminal and said financial server.~~

16. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 15, further comprising:

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processing means in said financial server for causing the server to transfer a value between the customer account and the merchant account, where the value is a function of a purchase amount for an item purchased.

17. (Cancelled)

18. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 15, further comprising means to encrypt communications provided by at least one of said first communication link and said second communication link.

19. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 15, further comprising authentication means for applying non-repudiation information to at least one of said first communication link and said second communication link.

20. (Original) The system of claim 19, wherein said non-repudiation information includes a digital signature.

21. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 19, wherein said non-repudiation information includes a digital certificate.

22. (Original) The system of claim 21 wherein said digital certificate includes information about particulars of a transaction evidenced by said certificate.

23-26. (Cancelled)

27.(New) The system of claim 15 wherein the acceptance is
transmitted in response to a notification from said financial
server relating to the purchase transaction.